



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
444 North 3rd Street, Suite 270
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone (916) 323-9983
Fax (916) 323-9999
www.rcb.ca.gov



July 6, 2000

Inquiry: I would like to get an interpretation of the Respiratory Care Practice Act (RCPA) as it relates to pulmonary function testing. In order to perform pulmonary function testing (lung volume determinations, thoracic gas volumes, diffusing capacity, flow volume loops, etc.) I understand it does not require a license as a respiratory care practitioner (RCP). However, most pulmonary function testing also incorporates the delivery of an aerosolized bronchodilator medication, with flow volume loop testing before and after the delivery of the bronchodilator. It is my understanding that only a licensed RCP, PA, MD LVN, or RN can deliver the aerosolized medications. I assume that any other medical assistant or medical technician can only deliver the medication under direct supervision of the previously listed licensed practitioners. Can you please verify these statements or provide direction as to who can deliver the bronchodilator treatment?

Response: The administration of aerosolized bronchodilators, please be advised that the administration of aerosolized medication is prohibited, when performed by unlicensed persons. A person whose license authorizes them to practice respiratory care may not authorize an unlicensed person to practice respiratory care.

Reference # 2000-C-20